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RECEIVED

September 10, 2001

SEP 26 2001

Lake H. Barrett, Acting Director  
Office of Civilian Radioactive  
Waste Management  
Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Response to request for Public Comment on the Yucca Mountain site as a repository for high-level radioactive waste

Dear Mr. Barrett:

The following are my comments on the subject request for public comment.

1. The Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitability Evaluation (PSSE) and other scientific documents produced by the Department of Energy provide an adequate basis for finding that the Yucca Mountain site is suitable for development of a repository. The unique benefits of the Yucca Mountain site for geological burial of nuclear wastes include its hydrologic, biologic, geologic, and climatologic attributes. These benefits have been clearly stated and evaluated as shown in the PSSE and related documents.
2. If the Secretary of Energy determines that the scientific analysis indicates that the Yucca Mountain site is likely to meet the applicable radiation protection standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency and Nuclear Regulatory Commission, then the Secretary of Energy should proceed to recommend the site to the president at this time.
3. There is no reason to prevent the President from concluding that the Yucca Mountain site is qualified for the preparation and submission of a construction license application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

4. There are serious risks in NOT proceeding as outlined above. The largest of these risks is due to the waste currently stored at sites around the country. The possibility of adverse hydrologic, biologic, geologic, or climatologic events or human-caused events is far larger than would be the case if the waste were at a site that has been as carefully evaluated and will be as carefully controlled as the Yucca Mountain site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael J. Kolar". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

Michael J. Kolar  
Professor of Mechanical Engineering